



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Adar+Nisan+Iyyar 5770 ■ March+April 2010

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Bring a Friend to Shabbat

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 8:15 PM

Rejoice in the beauty and diversity of our congregation by bringing a friend to Shabbat.

If you are planning to attend, please email greg@shaarzahav.org your friends' names so they can be properly welcomed.

The CSZ Homemade Passover Seder

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 5:30 PM

CSZ's "Home Made" Passover seder, on the second night of Passover, is back for its sixth fabulous year! SPACE IS LIMITED AND IT WILL SELL OUT. RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! Please contact the CSZ office for more information and to register: 415-861-6932.

Recovery Shabbat

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 8:15 PM

CSZ and the National Council on Alcoholism and other Drug Addictions-Bay Area invite you to a celebration of recovery on Recovery Shabbat Friday April 3, featuring special recovery themed readings and drash. In the spirit of Passover, we celebrate the freedom and joy of a life free of the bondage of addiction.

(more on page 4)

20 Years of Lesbian/Gay Rabbis

BY RABBI CAMILLE SHIRA ANGEL

Twenty years ago, in the fall of 1989, I was in the midst of applying for rabbinic school. Part of the application was the MMPI-2, a 567 item true/false personality assessment. I vividly remember arriving at one question in particular, "Are you attracted to masculine women?"

I was shocked. Nearly paralyzed. Feeling compromised, I knew that as a lesbian I was being targeted by Hebrew Union College as someone unfit for being a rabbinic candidate, solely based on my sexual orientation. I wish I could say this was purely my suspicion, but unfortunately, it was an open policy of HUC-JIR; one could be dismissed as a worthy candidate from rabbinic training "on account of being a homosexual."

Four years prior, in 1985, Rabbi Margaret Wenig and rebbinical student Margaret Holub had submitted a resolution to the Reform movement calling for gay ordination. However, it was tabled and put on hold for another five years, during which time the American Psychological Association declared that homosexuality should no longer be classified as a disease. In 1990, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) finally ruled that gay and lesbian rabbinic students could be openly out and ordained as rabbis (to read the entire resolution, go to www.ccarnet.org and search for the words "Homosexuality Rabbinat").

Those who came before me at HUC—Rabbis Allan Bennett, Yoel Kahn, and Denise Eger to name a few—encountered tremendous homophobia. When I listen to my queer elders tell their stories about their encounters with narrow minds and closed hearts in the halls of the seminary and in the congregations that they served while closeted, I am so moved. These heroes worked to educate and liberate people so that I and my peers could have access to Torah learning and leadership. We have so much for which to feel grateful.

Fortunately, I would be the last class of rabbinic applicants who would face these discriminatory practices; a year later, the weeding out policy for gays and lesbians would forever be a thing of the past. It would take another thirteen years before HUC would accept a transgender student, our very own Reuben Zellman, in 2003.

Fittingly, this March in San Francisco, at the annual CCAR convention, we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the CCAR's historic vote to accept gay and lesbian rabbis. As part of the celebration we will be recognizing and honoring different generations of gay and lesbian rabbis. I'm excited to bring colleagues to Sha'ar Zahav to see our gorgeous building, pray from our siddur, and celebrate our progress.

As we at Sha'ar Zahav have coalesced as a movement of LGBT Jews, families, friends, and allies, we've had a tremendous impact on Reform Judaism, which in turn has influenced the Jewish people as a whole. One beautiful example is embedded in our compelling spiritual treasure, *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*. Queer liturgy has come of age, and now, thanks to a generous grant from the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund. We have been given the opportunity to fur-

(continued on page 2)

Rabbi's Study



20 Years of Lesbian/Gay Rabbis

(continued from page 1)

ther the reach of our liturgy by placing *Sidur Sha'ar Zahav* into the hands and hearts of important thought leaders worldwide. We greatly appreciate Ira Hirschfield and the

Haas Jr. Fund for recognizing that we have a prophetic message and vision worth sharing on a much larger scale.

As I look back on the last twenty years, from the nervous applicant unsure of how I could imagine myself as an out rabbi to this day, when I can count among my colleagues dozens upon dozens of LGBT rabbis in the Reform, Recon-

structionist, and Conservative movements, when I can read queer Torah commentary online or in the library... I truly can say, we've come a long way!

I'm glad to be able to say thank you to the pioneers who came before me, who endured and persevered. May they and we continue to grow from strength to strength. While the Reform movement celebrates its twentieth anniversary of open ordination, I am personally celebrating the beginning of my tenth year of spiritual leadership at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Therefore, 2010 has special significance for me.

And I look forward to the next ten years. In 2020, may we achieve a perfect vision of a juster world!

From the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homosexuality and the Rabbinate, adopted 1989

Concern for Gay and Lesbian Colleagues

The committee is acutely aware that the inability of most gay and lesbian rabbis to live openly as homosexuals is deeply painful. Therefore, the committee wishes to avoid any action that will cause greater distress to our colleagues. As a result, the committee has determined that a comprehensive report is in the best interest of our Conference and the Reform movement as a whole.

Publicly acknowledging one's homosexuality is a personal decision that can have grave professional consequences. Therefore, in the light of the limited ability of the Placement Commission or the CCAR to guarantee the tenure of the gay or lesbian rabbis who "come out of the closet," the committee does not want to encourage colleagues to put their careers at risk. Regrettably, a decision to declare oneself publicly can have potentially negative effects on a person's ability to serve a given community effectively. In addition, the committee is anxious to avoid a situation in which pulpit selection committees will request information on the sexual orientation of can-

didates. The committee urges that all rabbis, regardless of sexual orientation, be accorded the opportunity to fulfill the sacred vocation that they have chosen.

Civil Rights for Gays and Lesbians

All human beings are created *betsalem Elohim* ("in the divine image"). Their personhood must therefore be accorded full dignity. Sexual orientation is irrelevant to the human worth of a person. Therefore, the Reform movement has supported vigorously all efforts to eliminate discrimination in housing and employment.³ The committee unequivocally condemns verbal and physical abuse against gay men and lesbian women or those perceived to be gay or lesbian. We reject any implication that AIDS can be understood as God's punishment of homosexuals. We applaud the fine work of the gay and lesbian outreach synagogues, and we, along with the UAHC, call upon rabbis and congregations to treat with respect and to integrate fully all Jews into the life of the community regardless of sexual orientation.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
San Francisco CA 94103
VOICE 415-861-6932

FAX 415-861-6081

EMAIL office@shaarzahav.org

WEB <http://www.shaarzahav.org>

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



Sha'ar Zahav Staff

RABBI Camille Shira Angel
(x301) rabbianangel@aol.com
CANTOR Sharon Bernstein
(x313) cantorbernstein@gmail.com
RABBINIC INTERN Reuben Zellman
(x306) reuben@shaarzahav.org
ADMINISTRATOR Regina Wurst
(x308) regina@shaarzahav.org
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY EDUCATION Rebecca Weiner
(x302) Rebecca@shaarzahav.org

RABBI'S ASSISTANT AND

MEMBERSHIP LIASON Greg Lawrence
(x303) greg@shaarzahav.org
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Shaun Hannan
(x304) shaun@shaarzahav.org

Officers

PRESIDENT Alex Ingersoll
ingersollax@earthlink.net
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Karen Schiller
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● We're Now All Grandparents!



ON FRIDAY, January 29, a milestone event occurred during Kabbalat Shabbat services at Sha'ar Zahav. We welcomed Reuben ben Chanah bat Yehudit v'Dina into our congregation. The six-week-old son of Emma Buchbinder and Eddie Woodward,

Edward Woodward III is the first child born to a parent who in turn was born into and grew up at Sha'ar Zahav. The daughter of Diana Buchbinder and Joyce Garay, Emma was one of our earliest students at what is now Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer.

We frequently have baby namings in our community, so why is this one so significant? How nice that you asked.

Many people have heard me at b'nei mitzvahs when I've delivered the official congregational "Mazal Tov" to the student. I relate that Sha'ar Zahav was founded in 1977 by three gay Orthodox Jews, all men. In the early days, the only children in our congregation were children from previous mixed-gender-marriages. But in the 1980s, infants and toddlers started to appear.

Soon, questions of childcare, programming and schooling arose. After lengthy discussions, a decision was made that though parents would pay tuition for school, our Beit Sefer would also be subsidized by the congregation. Hence, I always say that "the children of the congregation are all OUR children." I feel both institutional and strong personal naches in the achievements of each bar or bat mitzvah.

Nice bit of history. So why then do I always get so choked up when I relate this story? The answer is both personal and important to us as a community. The personal part is that I've always wanted to be a father. Something about carrying on the family genes, about the joys of bringing another being into the world, and guiding and nurturing a child into adulthood. Like many gay men of my generation, opportunities didn't abound at an age when it made sense for me. In my 40s, I did seriously consider being a sperm donor for a lesbian couple in our community. But, alas, a bout of testicular cancer and radiation treatment eliminated the possibility of

fatherhood for me.

So what's a person to do? I believe Sha'ar Zahav creates legacy in many ways – through our very existence, through our siddur and other ritual innovations, through the rabbis we have created and influenced, through our social action work with the SF Organizing Project, and through the progressive education our Beit Sefer offers. But what about adults like me who wish to have direct impact on the legacy we leave the next generation? Fortunately, several opportunities exist here too.

Attend a service involving our kids

Shabbat Simcha, a new program supported by a Legacy Foundation grant, offers many multi-generational interactive opportunities. Friday Night Live on the first Friday of most months, provides an opportunity to sing the dinosaur song with our youngest kids. Friday Night Spirit, a new program supported by a grant from the Goldman Fund, is targeted for families with tweens where you can enjoy the guitar playing of Karen Segal, Isaac Zones and Daniel Meyer O'Keeffe. Every Saturday Beit Sefer session starts with a moving and spirited mini-Shabbat service at 9:30 am. Come to bnei mitzvahs or attend the Community Retreat every spring held at Walker Ranch in Marin. Watch our kids in action and share in the nachas!

Join with other adults to teach our children

Up for a little more direct input into this legacy thing? Our Galei Limudim program invites a group of adults (non-parents and parents) to meet to study weekly, and then prepare and teach a few sessions to a class of children. During this process, you will form deep connections not only with your adult cohorts, but also establish lasting bonds with the students in "your" class. Contact Rebecca Weiner for more information.

Become a b'nei mitzvah mentor.

My husband, Martin, has recently joined (continued on page 5)

Va'ad Members

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ora Prochovnick
Aaron Danzig
Jo Ellen Green Kaiser
Susan Lubeck
Jeff Piade
Shellí Rawlings-Fein
Beth Ross
Liz Schaffer
Craig Shear
Michael Tyler

Jewish Gaily Forward

EDITOR Jo Ellen Green Kaiser

(jgkaiser@earthlink.net)

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Rebecca Weiner (education); Shaun Hannan (donations, sponsorships) and Greg Lawrence (naches, lifecycle)

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE Batya Kalis, Karen Schiller, Howard Steiermann, Nina Wouk.

DESIGN AND LAYOUT Jonathan Wieder (design@JonathanWieder.com)

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Volume 33, issue 2

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

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Music in the Mishkan

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 4:00 PM

Music in the Mishkan, CSZ's Chamber Music Concert Series featuring The Bridge Players, continues with "Fascinating Rhythm." Plan on joining us for the third and final concert of the season, "Unchained Melody" on Sunday May 2. CSZ Members \$15 per concert, Public \$20 per concert. Call 415-861-6932 for tickets.

Shabbat Simcha—Pray, Learn, Sing, and Nosh!

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 10:15 AM

People of all ages and levels of experience with Judaism will LOVE Shabbat Simcha!

We start with a teaching service, then move into learning tracks for all ages. We end with a fabulous catered vegetarian lunch. Join us!

MEETINGS

CSZ-SFOP Organizing Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Join with other Sha'ar Zahavniks in building relationships and pursuing justice. For more information, please contact Dana Vinicoff, vinicoff@hotmail.com.

Welcoming Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

All are invited to join this vibrant, revitalized group as we work to make Sha'ar Zahav the most welcoming environment, to both new and longstanding members. Please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com or Shelli Rawlings-Fein, shellimf@yahoo.com for more details.

Va'ad Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 6:45 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 6:45 PM

All are welcome to attend and listen to CSZ's monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

Ritual Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 6:30 PM

Come join new Ritual Committee chair, Andy Fyne, as we embark on a fresh journey into all things ritual here at CSZ. Contact ajfintwinpks@sbcglobal.net for more info.

CHAVUROT

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

We invite your entire family and your friends (non-members warmly welcomed) to CSZ's East Bay Chavurah. Our evening begins with a vegetarian/vegan potluck as we share blessings and check in. At around 7:30, adults (and teens) are invited to continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue—we have childcare for younger kids. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jim Greenberg, jgjb@earthlink.net.

Post Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, ~9:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, ~9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite you to join CSZ's Post Oneg Group for some further Shabbat Joy. All Ages, All Sexual Orientations, All Genders, All Ethnicities, All Relationship Statuses Welcome! For more information about this group you can contact Jim Acerra at jacerra@msn.com or Tony Enriquez at arnold_enriquez@hotmail.com. Please meet in the Social Hall/Oneg Room after services.

EDUCATION

"I Heard God's Call..."

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Rabbi Rebecca L. Dubowe, the first deaf



Challenge yourself.
Discover your values.
Imagine your future.

ATTENTION: 7TH GRADE FAMILIES HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW

Get expert advice on how to choose the right school.

Wednesday, April 21 • 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

RSVP at 415.345.9777 x124

Jewish Community High School of the Bay

התיכון היהודי הקהילתי באזור המפרץ

1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco | www.jchsofthebay.org

female ordained rabbi will share her personal experiences and insights about the importance on inclusion especially in the Jewish community

Interested in Adult B'nei Mitzvah? Learning Trope?

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20, AFTER SERVICES
(11:45)**

Discuss what you need to know to engage in our ritual life, including learning how to lead a service, read from Torah, and give a drash.

AND MORE

Community Retreat

JUNE 4-6, WALKER CREEK RANCH

Connect with other Sha'ar Zahavniks at our annual retreat. Email Rebecca at reb-weiner@gmail.com to reserve space. Cost is \$215/adult, \$100/kids. Scholarships available.

We're Now All Grandparents

(continued from page 3)

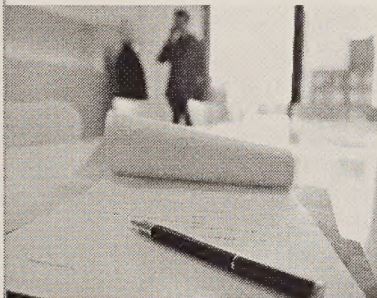
the ranks of mentors and is working with Parker Windesheim-Zigas toward his bar mitzvah in February 2011. Our mentorship program has provided an extraordinary opportunity for many adults (both non-parents and empty nesters) to become deeply involved with the learning of a child in our congregation. Contact Ora Prochovnick for more information.

Rabbi Angel challenges us to make Sha'ar Zahav an intergenerational community with rich opportunities. We have already created our own families in unique ways—so let us create unique intergenerational connections as well. Sure there are events which are adult events and ones which are mainly for families and kids. But there are also so many opportunities for each of us to cross those boundaries.

I would encourage each of us at

Sha'ar Zahav to think about the legacy we leave the next generation. As a start, we provide a community where each child can benefit from our progressive Jewish values. But there are also many opportunities for each of us to have an even greater personal impact and connection. I may not be able to pass on my genes, but I can pass on my values. And I sure like what I see in the children and grandchildren we are raising.

Personal Attention. Thoughtful Litigation.



At the Schoenberg Family Law Group, we recognize that a family law matter — whether occurring in a traditional or alternative family setting — is one of the most difficult life challenges that you may face. The resolution of these issues will have a lasting impact on your children, finances, and family structure.

We work with other professionals—psychologists, accountants, appraisers—to ensure that complex and sensitive issues are resolved in a comprehensive way. Our unwavering commitment to excellence shows in our results—whether by vigorous negotiation or powerful litigation—we consistently deliver the finest legal services to our clients in all family law matters.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Divorce
- Domestic Partnership Dissolution
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- Child Support
- Restraining Orders
- Paternity
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- Post-Divorce Disputes
- Modification of Orders
- Appeals

Please call **415.834.1120** for an initial consultation (24-hour answering service).



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Kavod-Kavod-Kavod: “A Shout Out”



IN HIS JFF column, our president Alex Ingersoll writes about all the opportunities for intergenerational experiences at CSZ. In my article, I wanted to give kavod (honor) to all the volunteers and staff who have made those programs possible.

Our Shabbat Simcha program is part of a grant from the Legacy Heritage Program. Rabbi Marc Margolis has been our champion and mentor, insuring our renewed support from Legacy Heritage. He has helped to bring us the many amazing programs we have had in the last few years, including the Community Wide Havdallah and the Galei Limudim. Within Sha'ar Zahav, Shabbat Simcha has had a village of volunteers to bring it to fruition including Rabbi Angel, Cantor Sharon Bernstein, Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, Ora Prochovnick, Larry Best, Alan Gordon, Howard Steiermann, Susan Lubeck, Ruth Schoenbock, Shoshana Levenberg, Jessica Alexander and our wonderful teachers and presenters.

Our Friday Spirit program, generously funded by the Goldman Foundation, brings us Deborah Newbrun, Issac Zones, and Daniel Meyer O' Keefe. Their drashes and rocking ruach wouldn't be possible without the volunteer support of Paul Cohen, Nancy Meyer and Michael Schaffer.

Our Friday Night Live program with the rockin melodies of Issac Zones and Daniel Meyer O' Keefe would have been silence instead of smiles without the generous support of Avi Goldberg and Will Garcia. Rebecca Goldfader has been the coordinator for the past two years, making sure that the pizza is always plentiful and the dinosaurs are knocking at the door.

The Galei Limudim has been the beneficiary of sooooo much volunteer effort. There are too many names to mention but I can say that none of it

could have happened without the dedicated guidance of Deborah Levy. Yashir Koach!

The Bnei Mitzvah process includes extensive volunteer effort, but there are three volunteers of note: Ora Prochovnick helps families create their services with patience and expertise, Alan Gordon has coordinated most of the program for several years, and Ilana Bernstein has been the matchmaker extraordinaire, matching all our wonderful mentors with their students. These mentors spend so much time and energy on behalf of all of us that they deserve their own article—keep tuned to future columns!

The CEB (Children's Education Board) helps to guide and support all these programs. This year's committed cohort includes: Daniel Ostrow, Patty Caplan, Kelly Cytron, Laurie Trupin, Jeff Piade, Amy Schustack, Ruth Bernstein, Will Garcia and Gina Centanni.

We also have a hardworking, dedicated Curriculum committee, and a Bnei Mitzvah committee. Paula Fleisher and Kim Gitnick add their expertise as well as many of the volunteers listed above.

My incredible teaching staff are the foundation that all great things at BSPM are built upon: Jessica Austin, Andrea Guerra, Kendra Lubalin, Jaron Kangenson, Shalom Rosenberg, Ida Kulak, Yael Zakan and Rabbi Devra Noily, Elana Robinson Lynch, Amelia Nahman, Ila Cerny. They bring so much of their time and energy to insure that the classes and the students get the best Jewish education possible.

None of our intergenerational programs would be possible without our committed administrative staff of Regina Wurst, Greg, Shaun Hannan and our incredible building support Ben, Sam and Noah.

But guess what... your name could

be on this honor roll. There are hundreds of ways for you to get involved in the programs that serve our whole community. It really does take a village and I feel honored to have the hevrah I have in this village creating such amazing dynamic programming!

The real kavod is so much deeper than a mention in a bulletin article: all you have to do is talk to one of the people listed above to find out how meaningful these volunteer positions are. In fact, you already are on this list—if you are reading this article it means that you are a vital and important part of our community. I will look forward to working with you more closely in the future.

B'Shalom,
Rebecca

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- 3 Wednesday Class
- 6 Shabbat Simcha -
10:00 am - 1:30 pm
- 10 Wednesday Class
- 13 Shabbat Class
- 17 Wednesday Class
- 20 Shabbat Class
- 24 Wednesday Class
- 27 Shabbat Class

APRIL

[NO BEIT SEFER - 3/31 4/3, 4/7]

- 10 Shabbat Class
- 14 Wednesday Class
- 17 Shabbat Class
- 21 Wednesday Class
- 24 Shabbat Class
- 28 Wednesday Class

FAMILY CALENDAR

Friday Night Live!

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 6:00 PM

Calling all Kids! Bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups and celebrate Shabbat with us. Designed for children 0 to 6 years, but all are welcome. Pizza dinner follows—bring a vegetarian dish to share. In April there will be no dinner due to Passover.

Shabbat Simcha

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 10:15 AM

People of all ages and levels of experience with Judaism will LOVE Shabbat Simcha.

We start with a teaching service (and tot program for the under-six set), then move into learning tracks for all ages. We end with a fabulous catered vegetarian lunch. Join us!

Friday Night Spirit

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 5:45 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 5:45 PM

Join Camp Tawonga's Deborah Newbrun, Isaac Zones, Daniel Meyer-O'Keefe and Brady Gill. Children ages 7 to 12 and their families are invited to join us as we welcome the Sabbath with some of our favorite Hebrew and English songs (and some really cool new tunes too!). Enjoy dinner and schmooze after.

Community Retreat

JUNE 4-6, WALKER CREEK RANCH

Connect with other Sha'ar Zahavniks at our annual retreat. Email Rebecca at reb-weiner@gmail.com to reserve space. Cost is \$215/adult, \$100/kids. Scholarships available.

Jews Around the World: Kehilla Alef Learns About Diaspora Jews

By Jesse Noily

Jesse Noily is a Beit Sefer Student. We are pleased to welcome him as a new JGF columnist! —JGF Editor

ON NOV. 14, 2009, the Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer unit changed from Holiness to Jewish Journeys. Ida's class, Kehilla Alef, began with an examination of Jewish life-cycles, then moved on to study Jews in the Diaspora. We talked about Jews from India, China and especially Uganda. Though there are not a lot of them, the Jews of Uganda are very proud of their religion. They have small synagogues in their villages. One picture in a book Ida brought for us shows many of them sitting outside listening to the daily prayer.

Later, we talked about why Jews would leave their homeland and made a long list of reasons, including: to find a better job, to leave a war, too many natural disasters, etc. We also talked about the benefits of the Diaspora, including that it's good to have Jews in all different places so that people of different religions can know each other, learn about each other, and so no one will be able to say that they never met a Jewish person.



Courtesy of the Jewish Daily Forward

Student Harry Bernholtz especially liked one topic in the study Jews in the Diaspora. "I go to a Chinese school and I'm pretty fluent in Chinese so learning about the Jews in China was really interesting," says Harry. He also says he likes it because there was a big flood there during a war and he's interested in floods.

I am in Ida's class and I thought it was very interesting learning about the Jewish Diaspora. I would love to go visit other countries and see the Jewish communities there, especially Uganda.

AIDS Fund

Neil Hart in memory of Tim Elliott.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Eli Weinstein.

Andrew & Michele Williamson in memory of Leon LeMeteyer.
in memory of Jerry Davis.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in honor of Meg Keene's welcoming into the covenant.

Steve Wiesner in honor of Cantor Bernstein.

Chai Fund - Cantor

Anonymous

Chesir/Stein Music Fund

Joan Goldman in memory of Susie Gerard.

CSZ Siddur Bookplate

Bernard Choden & Lois Scott in memory of Eli Chodoroski.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in memory of Doris Ingersoll.
in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Ann Ritzma & Elaine Porter in loving memory of Merv Porter.
in loving memory of Vivian Dornberg Porter.

Karren Shorofsky & Carolyn Reiser in honor of the bat mitzvah of Julia Reiser Shorofsky.

General Fund

Dean & Nancy Abelon in honor of Arthur Slepian.
in support of Siddur Sha'ar Zahav.

Allan Berenstein in memory of his cousin, Ellen Albin.
in memory of Harold Schwartz & AJ Berenstein.
in memory of his dear friend, Allen Harris.

in memory of Bill Ashley Dobbin, Ziggy Gimnichner and Rabbi Jason Gaber.

Lucy Bernholz in memory of her mother, Kit Bernholz.

Henry Carrey in memory of his father, Abraham Carrey.

Rick Crane

James Edlin & Eve Meyer in memory of Fredi Field.

Steve Elman in honor of Phil Charney's birthday.

in honor of Amy Schustack's birthday.

Nancy Fischbein & Family in memory of Gwendolyn Wong.

Sara Haber & Beth Sousa generously supporting the reception of our new piano.

Hershy Hirschkop in memory of her mother, Phyllis Abadzoglou.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in honor of Julia Shorofsky's bat mitzvah.

in honor of Emma Greenberg-Bell's bat mitvah.

in honor of Danya Rubenstein-Markiewicz's bat mitzvah.

Arnie Jackson in memory of his father, Louis Jackson.

in memory of Richard D. Wright.

Norma & Murray Kane in general support of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Lisa Katz in honor of Drew Parker-Rose.
in honor of Andrew Ramer.

in honor of Ora Prochovnick.

in honor of Tiela Chalmers.

Dennis & Kristen Korkos in memory of Aaron Emil Nacamulli.

Ron Lezell in honor of Walt Leiss's birthday.
in honor of David Gellman.

Jeffrey Lilly in memory of his mother, Dolores Hulsey.

Merry Luskin

Linda Marks & Earl Blauner in honor of Sara, Dev & Jesse's return to the Bay Area and CSZ.

Richard Meyerson in honor of Gary Decad & Steve Favreau.

Jeanette Nichols in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu.

in memory of Phyllis Mintzer.

Ann Ritzma & Elaine Porter in memory of Elaine's father, Merv Porter.

Hilda Rosenfeld in memory of her father, Rubin Rothenberg.

Karen Schiller in honor of Terry Fletcher's naming.

in honor of Arthur Slepian's leading services for the first time.

Roanna Shorofsky in honor of the bat mitzvah of Julia Reiser Shorofsky.

Susan Lowenberg & Joyce Newstat in general support of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Michael Tyler & Amy Schustack in memory of Bernice Schustack.

Steve Weiner in honor of Cantor Bernstein.

Lonnie Weiss

Alison Wellsfry

Helene Wenzel in memory of her grandmother, Rebecca Goldman.

Ami Zusman in memory of her mother, Hilda Saperstein.

High Holiday Pledges 5770

Jason Honig

Janice Phillips

In-Kind Donation

Walter Leiss generously providing his Petrof piano to our shul.

Music in the Mishkan Donations

Phil Charney

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum

Batya Kalis

Rose Katz

Ron Lezell

Ron & Ruth Miguel

John Weatherman & Louis Kelsh

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Phyllis Mintzer.

Sue Bojdak & Deb Yates in honor of Emma Greenberg-Bell becoming a bat mitzvah.

Avraham Giannini in memory of Talia French and Zora French.

Mark Lipsitz in support of our educational programs.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

James Carlson in memory of Rita Roginski.

Marcia & Barnet Eskin in honor of Jonathan Funk & John Arnold's anniversary.

in memory of Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk.

Jonathan Funk in memory of Bernice Wiseman.

in memory of Merv Porter.

in memory of his mother, Pearl Funk.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in honor of Josh Taylor's 55th birthday.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

James Greenberg & Judith Bell in honor of Emma's bat mitzvah.

Ilan Berenstein in memory of Aaron Nacamulli.

in memory of Ron Wilmot.

Eric & Aaron Cooper-Keitel in honor of Ron M. Lezell.

Avraham Giannini in memory of his father, Tom Giannini.

Tova Green in memory of her father, Alexander Schwartz.

Neil Hart in memory of Mildred Budetti.

Harold & Ellen Kameya in honor of their granddaughter, Lauren Akemi Kameya's, naming.

Lisa Katz in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Beth Ross & Laurie Trupin in memory of Andrew Nadelson.

Sharyn Saslafsky in honor of Walt Leiss's birthday.

Barry Schmell in memory of his mother, Shirley Schmell.

Karren Shorofsky & Carolyn Reiser in honor of the bat mitzvah of Julia Reiser Shorofsky.

Fred & Irene Tannenbaum in memory of Larry Tannenbaum

Rainbow Fund 5769

Avner Lapovsky in memory of Yehuda Lapovsky and Leah Veinberg Lapovsky.

Social Action Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Cheryl Orvis.

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December

4/5

Friday Night Live Family Dinner Sponsored by **Ali & Jessica Israel Cannon** In honor of Raffi's 5th birthday.

11/12

Bimah Flowers Generously Co-sponsored by **Debbie Greiff, Bob Davis, Helen Cohen, Mark Lipman, Anna Sophia Schwartz-Cohen, Michael and Sasha Lighty, and Jay Farina** In honor of Emma Greenberg-Bell's bat mitzvah.

& **The Cymrot-Wu Family** In memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.

Oneg Generously Co-sponsored by **Martin Tannenbaum & Alex Ingersoll** In memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

& **Susan Leff & Brad Post** In honor of the naming of their daughter, Sadie Post.

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **The Greenberg-Bell Family** In honor of Emma Greenberg-Bell's bat mitzvah.

18/19

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Ilona Turner & Philip Kaplan** In memory of Ilona's grandmother, Mary Turner.

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **CSZ's Post-Oneg Social Group**

25/26

Bimah Flowers & Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Nancy Silverrod** In memory of Elijah Michael Silverrod MacLachlan.

January

8/9

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Rhonda Ross** In memory of Harold Clements, father of Kelley Clements.

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **A grant from the Legacy Heritage Foundation**

15/16

Bimah Flowers & Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **The Rubenstein-Markiewicz Family** In honor of the bat mitzvah of Danya Rubenstein-Markiewicz.

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Harold & Ellen Kameya** In honor of the Hebrew Naming of their granddaughter Lauren Akemi Kameya.

22/23

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Jo Ellen Green Kaiser** In memory of her grandmother, Sarah Linker.

29/30

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Joyce Garay and Diana Buchbinder** In honor of the Hebrew Naming of their grandson, Edward Woodward III.

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Life Cycles

Mazel Tov to **Jessie Sue Karnatz-Lazarus** and **Elias Lazarus** on the birth of their son **Avraham Grace Karnatz Lazarus**.

Avi was born on November 28, 2009.

Mazel tov to **Emma Greenberg-Bell** on her becoming a Bat Mitzvah on December 12.

Mazel tov to **Sadie Post**, daughter of **Susan Leff** and **Brad Post**, on her Hebrew Naming ceremony in December. Sadie's Hebrew name is Sarah Yael.

Mazel Tov to **Emma Buchbinder**, former member of CSZ and daughter of **Diana Buchbinder**, on the birth of her son **Edward Woodward III** on December 14.

Mazel tov to members **Melissa Foster** and **Steve Moss** on their recent engagement!

Mazel Tov to **Terry Fletcher**, who received the Hebrew name Me'ira Ariel bat Moshe v'Ellen on January 9.

Mazel Tov to **Valerie Kameya** on the birth of her daughter, **Lauren Akemi Kameya**. Lauren was born December 31, 2009. Valerie and Lauren have since moved to Southern California so Lauren can be surrounded by the love of both her mother and her grandparents.

Mazel Tov to **Kendra Lubalin** and **Aimee Gross** on the birth of their daughter, **Sadie Rose Lubalin**. Sadie was born January 7.

Mazel Tov to **Danya Rubenstein-Markiewicz** on becoming a Bat Mitzvah on January 16.

Naches

Yashir Koach to **Rabbi Elliot Kukla** who wrote an excellent article entitled "HIV/AIDS and the Jewish Community" in honor of World AIDS Day.

Mazel tov to **Jim Acerra** who started a new job on Monday, December 14 as DeVry University-Oakland Campus's Recruitment Manager.

Mazel tov to **Michael Sarid**, who accepted the position of Western Regional Director at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Mazel tov **Rabbi Joseph Hample** on his being hired as the Jewish Chaplain at Pelican Bay State Prison. Joe and Barry moved to Crescent City, CA in January.

Yashir Koach to **Marty Rawlings-Fein** on his recently published Torah Queeries on Parashat Shemot entitled "Saving Our Youth from the Crocodiles."

Thank You

Thank you to **Kathleen Friedlander** for catering a lovely dinner for our Israel Survey meeting in December.

Thank you to all the members of **CSZ's Chorus** for making our Chanukah Shabbat a musically delicious one: Cassie Angley, Henry Carrey, Phil Charney, Steve Elman, Tony Enriquez, Terry Fletcher, Joan Goldman, Lynn Kaplan, Nancy Kates, Rose Katz, Rebecca Kramer, Shoshana Levenberg, Marc Lipschutz, Amy Schustack, Anna Schwartz-Cohen, Davey Shlasko, Ilona Turner, Ami Zusman, Nancy Levin (pianist), and, of course, Reuben Zellman (director).

Thank you to **Nancy Windesheim** for her fabulous work on the design of our new weekly email! To subscribe, email greg@shaarzahav.org.

A huge thank you to **Walter Leiss**, for donating his Petrof Piano to the shul, and to **Sarah Haber**, for underwriting all the set up costs. And lastly, a huge thank you to **Jose Luis Moscovich**, for giving the shul use of his Hazelton piano for 8 years.

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Rethinking Ritual at Sha'ar Zahav

I RECENTLY gave a drash (sermon) in which I talked about one word from that week's Torah portion. I explained how in my initial studies, I misread the Hebrew. I read "Ha eesh Mosheh," "The man Moses" mistakenly as, "ha aesh Mosheh," "the fire of Moses." My reading made sense to me as I thought, "Of course! People admired Moses because of the passion burning inside him." A friend of mine suggested that the phrase "the man Moses" can be thought as a way to personalize Moses, to say 'the regular guy Moses.'

I continued by talking about how like Moses, like us, was a regular guy, but how, like Moses, if we can connect with our passion, we can accomplish some extraordinary things.

In this month's column, I would like to share how some "regular" Sha'ar Zahavniks are envisioning new paths and leadership around ritual; and to invite you, each and every one of you, to consider being a part of this exciting re-energization.

Since Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's founding in 1977, the ritual life of the shul has been dynamic, innovative, cross denominational and cutting edge. We've authored numerous versions of our own prayer book. Collaborating with professional clergy has made our bimah (pulpit) vibrant. Many rabbis (and nearly-ordained rabbis) credit Sha'ar Zahav as being the catalyst for their decision to study for the rabbinate.

At our winter retreat, the Ritual Committee realized that after thirty years we needed to re-energize in order to build on our past successes.

FUN! FOOD! FRIENDS!

How quickly these three important components of meetings can get lost in the formality of report after report after report. We recognized that we weren't allowing enough time for our passions to blossom, as we were tending to the maintenance of the regular

demands of ritual scheduling, process discussions, feedback, etc. So we set out to reorganize.

Under the wonderful chairship of Andy Fyne, who brings experience as ritual chair of a number of shuls as well as years on our ritual committee, a restructuring has just been initiated. After discussions with the Rabbi, Cantor and congregants; this is what has been generated:

The last Thursday of the month will typically be a ritual related meeting. Eight times a year the Service Leaders' Chavurah will meet. Three times the Minhag council will meet, and once a year we're hoping to have a Shabbaton.

I am excited to be co-leading the Service Leaders' Chavurah with Cantor Bernstein. Let me say that the name is a partial misnomer. It is not just for Service Leaders. Everyone is welcome, even if you have no intention of becoming a service leader. Our meetings will include Fun! Food! and Friends!

Yes, we'll be sharing with each other how to be grounded on the bimah. How to be authentic. How to write kavanot (introductions to service segments or individual prayers). We'll be skill-building, planning service pairings and discussing how previous services moved us (or didn't move us). I invite everyone to join us to learn, grow, and take advantage of our camaraderie. As we share and grow together, we'll see what we each have to offer. Come as an engaged "Jew in the pew," as a first time, extremely nervous and sweating service co-leader, or as simply someone who wants to get to know others at shul (synagogue) so as not to feel alone.

Other components of Ritual Committee (consider yourself "in the know" if you call it RitCom) will include the Innovations, Festivals and the High Holy Days Subcommittees.

On the Innovations Subcommittee, we will plan novel ways to daven (pray) and start thinking about bold strokes such as large writing projects (think new machzor, wow!). Another place to plug in to the energy will be at the Minhag Council, where changes to our customs and how we honor and respectfully add to tradition will be discussed.

What's this all mean to you? It means that all of us "regular" people have something to contribute to make the ritual life of our community shine even brighter. It means that we're hoping that people who want to be a part of a stimulating learning environment will join us. It means that those who feel that our services don't speak to them have a venue at which they can openly and honestly be heard. It means that we're trying to create places where our passions can be located, nurtured and then acted upon.

We're all regular people. And, together, our passions can help ignite Sha'ar Zahav's ritual life like the burning bush...to be something oh so special, burning brightly without being consumed.

Call me: (415) 695-9155 or write Ritual Committee Chair Andy Fyne at ajfintwinpk@sbcglobal.net. We want you! We need you! Help us be even better than we currently are. Or simply show up: Thursday, March 25th, 6:30pm.

From Stage to Stage

How I Lost My Son (and Found Him in Writing)

BY SUZANNE LOEBL

"Birth is the beginning...and death the destination, but life is a journey, a going, a growing from stage to stage."

Thus concluded Rabbi Kahn's eulogy at Sha'ar Zahav for David, my 37-year-old son, who had died of AIDS the day before. My husband, my daughter and I had to arrange the funeral in a great hurry because May 25, 1993 was the eve of Shavuot. In his eulogy, the Rabbi had captured my son's spirit, his anger, his age, and his habit of never getting things done in time to perfection, and his words had been a consolation.

Most gay men become aware of their sexual orientation during late childhood, their teens or even later, but I realized that my son was gay when he was three years old. He cross-dressed, said that his name was Mary, and howled whenever I took him to the barber.

In retrospect I wish that I had accepted the obvious with equanimity. Instead I blamed myself for his homosexuality, which, at the time was still considered by greater society to be a major character flaw. My husband and I consulted experts at the Jewish Board of Guardians, a social service agency, and after thorough evaluation they recommended in-depth psychotherapy for David, my husband and myself.

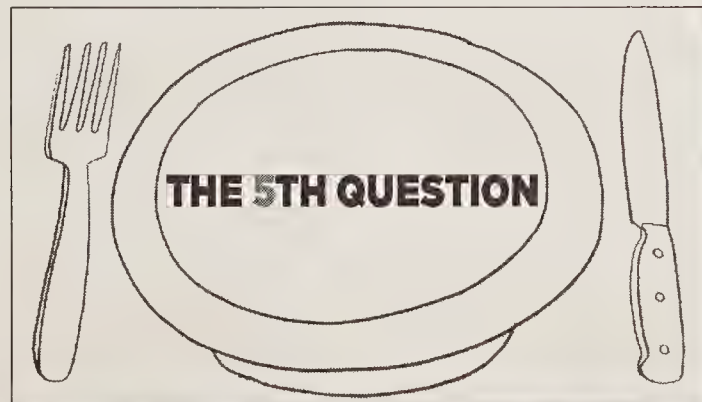
Fortunately, long before the American Psychiatric Association modified its stance, we embraced David, his partners and his friends, and treasured their special sense of humor, vulnerability, and sensitivity. As a child growing up in Nazi Germany, a German in anti-Teutonic Belgium, and an immi-

grant in post-World War II New York, I identified with the gay community's experience of being a discriminated-against minority. I was keenly aware of the stress that being considered different entails. I knew that members of such groups always had to be on their guard and do better than others to be successful.

I wish that I could have spent the rest of my life enjoying my son, sharing his joys and sorrows. This was not to be, for he came of age just when the

HIV virus arrived on America's shores, and his generation was to be hit hardest.

My son contracted the HIV virus in 1983. At first, so little was known about AIDS that we managed to partially ignore the disease, but in 1987, when it started to destroy David's immune system, my panic escalated. I needed to share my burden with others. I called GMHC and they referred *(continued on page 14)*



BECAUSE ON THIS NIGHT, LIKE EVERY OTHER NIGHT, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

MAZON
A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER

From Stage to Stage

(continued from page 13)

me to a support group of mothers who stood by their ailing children, then mostly gay men. The group, simply called "The Mothers' Group," met every Tuesday evening in New York's Greenwich Village.

We, the mothers, knew that we had to be brave in front of our sons, but during our meetings we let our despair flow freely. Still, the first thing I learned at the group was that if these mothers could bear the pain of supporting their children, so could I.

The group was a great help, but I also once more resorted to my trusted pen, as I had to process my feelings about the Holocaust.

Years after I lost my son I forged my random recollections into a memoir. In 2008 I published *The Mothers' Group, of Love, Loss and AIDS*.

I want to encourage anyone who has suffered a loss to take up writing. By the time I wrote my two memoirs, I had become a seasoned professional

writer; but anyone can write. The Internet, e-mails, Facebook, Twitter and blogs are ample demonstration that most people also love doing it.

If you can facebook, you can journal. The idea is that you just write, possibly without heed to grammar, spelling or punctuation. The most important lesson I ever learned as a writer was to consider my drafts impermanent. When you give yourself that permission, you become a freer writer. Computers make the revision process easy. You can use your computer as if it were a digital camera, trying different angles and approaches and keeping the one you like best.

Good writing does take time—like the above description of life as a journey, writing grows "from stage to stage" until it reaches a personal best—but it is well worth the effort. Neither of my two memoirs were a great commercial success, but among my many books, they are by far my favorites. They allowed me to revisit myself. When I reread my wartime diary I was delighted to meet the teenager I had been forty years earlier. In *The Mother's Group*, I recalled the many wonderful

and terrible times I shared with my son. And most gratifying of all, others really liked my two memoirs. Though both recount the most difficult times of my life, they offer readers a very personal account of a crucial slice of history.

I hope that I have inspired you to write. To help you along, I will edit one page of a submitted manuscript and send you a memoir writing tip sheet. Email the page to me at suzan-neloebl@gmail.com.

Signed copies of *The Mothers' Group of Love, Loss and AIDS* (\$12.95 plus shipping) are available from suzan-neloebl@gmail.com. Regular copies are also available at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

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Contact Jo Ellen at jgkaiser@earthlink.net

Planning for the Future

What is our vision for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav five or ten years from now? How do we get there?

These are the kinds of big questions every well-run organization needs to ask itself from time to time. With the blessing of Rabbi Angel and President Alex Ingersoll, Vice President Karen Schiller has begun to map out a process to make this visioning happen.

A small committee of Va'ad members has identified first steps: First, to raise money to pay a consultant to lead us through this process; Second, to begin formulating our need—what questions we most want to ask through this process.

Our goal is eventually to involve every single congregant in the planning process. We can't plan for the future as an organization unless we know what your vision for the future is. Once the planning process begins in earnest, look for regular JGF articles and announcements. Meanwhile, if you have experience in strategic planning, know consultants, or have strong feelings about how this process should unfold, please contact Karen at xxx.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the following members on the death of their loved ones:

Jackie Wong, Jonathan Kaplan, and Zachary and Samuel Kaplan on the death of Jackie's mother, Gwen Wong.

Ina Turpen Fried, on the death of her friend, Mike Penner aka Christine Daniels

Mary Messer, on the death of her mother, Marian Janet Messer

Ilona Turner, on the death of her grandmother, Mary Turner

Elaine Porter, Ann Ritzma, and Noah and Ben Porter, on the death of Elaine's father, Mervyn Porter

Ron Edelman, on the death of his aunt, Cecilia Seidler

Sharyn Saslafsky, on the death of her aunt, Bea Saslafsky

Member Yahrzeits

March

- 3 Paul Nemrow
- 6 Pearl Lewin
- 7 Isabel Fishman
- 10 Jamie Rosen
- 16 Theodore G. Mendonca, Jr.
- 26 Michael Lipson
- 28 Neill Rosen
- 31 James Harris Freedgood
- 31 Marvin Steele

April

- 1 Adam Harris
- 2 Ronald Gertz
- 3 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Stermann
- 23 Michael Randall
- 24 Norma Faini-Pick

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

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Schmoozers Needed!

Are you enthusiastic about Sha'ar Zahav? Do you enjoy talking to new people?

The Welcoming Committee wants you to call new and potential members. This is a great opportunity to be more involved in CSZ, meet new people, and help our community thrive.

You decide how many calls per month you have time for, and make the calls at your convenience. Training provided.

Please consider doing this mitzvah. We can use your help! Call Ellen Murland at 824-4314, or e-mail Emurlie@sbcglobal.net.

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20 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	21 NISAN Office Closed Last day Pesach 10:00 am Yizkor Service	22 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	23 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	24 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Welcoming Committee mt	18 NISAN 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 8:15 pm Shabbat Service Recovery Shabbat	19 NISAN 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
27 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	28 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	29 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	30 NISAN 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	1 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting	2 IYYAR 5:45 pm Friday Night Spirit 7:30 pm Shabbat Service 9:00 pm Post oneg social group	3 IYYAR 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
4 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	5 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	7 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	8 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	9 IYYAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	10 IYYAR 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
11 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	12 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	13 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	14 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:30 pm Yossie Avni Event	15 IYYAR 6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 6:30 pm Ritual Committee mt	16 IYYAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	